

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 EA-10 /041 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

TO AMEMBASSY KABUL

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 4881

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

CONFIDENTIAL ISLAMABAD 11717

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, AF

SUBJECT: KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KAHAN BACK IN THE NEWS

REF: KABUL 8375 (NOTAL)

1. KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR KHAN WAS PREVENTED FROM TRAVELLING TO AFGHANISTAN SEVERAL DAYS AGO BY PAKISTANI AUTHORITIES. HE WAS NOT ARRESTED THEN, NOR IS HE NOW UNDER ARREST.

2. BROUHAHA OVER GHAFFAR KHAN'S PLANS TO LEAVE PAKISTAN IS LATEST IN A SERIES OF EVENTS IN WHICH THE FEISTY NONAGENARIAN HAS AMBARRASSED BOTH THE GOP AND SOME OF HIS FOLLOWERS. AFTER HIS RELEASE FROM DETENTION IN THE PRE-MARTIAL LAW DAYS, GHAFFER KHAN WAS PRONE TO GIVE RAMBLING, LENGTHY SPEECHES CRITICIZING HIS "PATHAN BROTHERS" FOR COWARDICE AND EXCORIATING THE BHUTTO GOVERNMENT. HE KEPT THREATENING TO LEAVE PAKISTAN, "BECAUSE THE PATHANS ARE NOT WORTH OF ME".

2. SEVERAL MONTHS AFTER THE MILITARY TAKE-OVER, CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR GENERAL ZIA VISITED GHAFFAR KHAN AND DISCUSSED POLITICS WITH HIM. AFTER THE MEETING, ZIA DECLARED GHAFFAR WAS A "PATRIOT AND A LOYAL PAKISTANI".

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AND GHAFFAR HAD SOME NICE WORDS FOR THE CMLA.

4. LATEST INCIDENT WAS CAUSED BY GHAFFAR'S DESIRE TO OBTAIN MEDICAL TREATMENT FOR A PAINFUL KNEE. HE HAS ASKED PERMISSION TO VISIT THE PRC FOR ACUPUNCTURE TREATMENT, AND THE GOP, THROUGH ITS EMBASSY IN PEKING, IS SEEKING APPROVAL. GHAFFAR BECAME IMPATIENT WITH THE DELAY, AND DECIDED TO GO

TO JALLALABAD, IN AFGHANISTAN, TO OBTAIN TREATMENT FROM A PHYSICIAN WHO HAS TREATED HIM IN THE PAST. HE WAS STOPPED AT THE BORDER BY PAKISTANI OFFICIALS.

5. GHAFFAR IS NOW AT A REST HOUSE, NORTH OF PESHAWAR AND MEETS REGULARLY WITH FAMILY, FRIENDS AND MEMBERS OF THE PRESS. HIS MUSINGS ARE FREQUENTLY CARRIED IN THE MEDIA. WE BELIEVE THE GOP IS MAKING A SINCERE EFFORT TO OBTAIN PRC APPROVAL FOR HIS MEDICAL TREATMENT, AND WILL NOT HINDER HIS DEPARTURE ONCE PERMISSION IS RECEIVED. AS ADDRESSEES AWARE, IF GHAFFAR WANTED TO CROSS BORDER INTO AFGHANISTAN WITHOUT GOP PERMISSION, HE HAS THE MEANS AND CONTACTS TO DO SO AT ANY TIME.

6. GHAFFAR IS GENERALLY A SPENT FORCE IN FRONTIER POLITICS. HIS AGE, AND HIS IDENTIFICATION WITH PRO-CONGRESS ELEMENTS, BOTH PRE AND POST INDEPENDENCE, ARE POLITICAL LIABILITIES AND COULD HARM ATTEMPTS HIS SON (WALI KHAN) MAKES TO GAIN A NATIONAL POLITICAL FOLLOWING IF HE IS, AS GENERALLY EXPECTED, SOON RELEASED FROM DETENTION. CONSTABLE

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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, PK, AF, (KHAN, KHAN ABDUL GHAFFAR)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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